past. However, we are endeavoring to procure a public meeting room, and are in hopes, if we can accomplish this, having a few strangers occasionally to listen to us.

I have distributed tracts quite freely since my arrival here, and have made the acquaintance of quite a number of persons. I am always a welcome visitor at the house of one gentleman, who is now reading the "Voice of Warning." I am in hopes he will soon come into the fold.

The people here care but little for religion. I do not feel discouraged, however. I am desirous of doing all I possibly can to spread the principles of salvation, so that no one where I am laboring will be left with an excuse when the wars and troubles that have been decreed come upon the people of Great Britain.

I remain, your Brother in the Gospel,

ISAAC SMITH.

CONVERSION AND COLONIZATION.

Bishop Hans Jensen and the Saints in Conejos, Colorada, have surveyed an excellent town site, with good farming and meadow land close by, with a fine stream of water that can be brought on to the land with comparatively little labor. The townsite is to be one mile N. and S., half a mile E. and W.; the blocks 32 rods square and the streets six rods wide. The proposed name of the town is "Manassa." Elder John Morgan, with a company of 60 souls from the Southern States, is expected to arrive there on the 29th of this month.

A number of the brethren of Weber and Davis Counties are about to form a colony in the vicinity of Market Lake, Idaho, where there is a large tract of rich land.

It is encouraging to witness the extension of the settlements of the Saints and the success which crowns the efforts of our proselyting and colonizing missionaries. Zion is to "lengthen her Stakes and to extend her borders," to "increase and not decrease," to "build up the waste places and make the wilderness and the solitary desert glad." The Gospel must be preached to every creature, and the gathering must be accomplished, until the sons and daughters of Zion cry, "Give us room that we may dwell."

The pioneer work is as requisite as the preaching work, and the Lord will crown with success the labors of His servants in every capacity, when they keep His laws and observe His counsels while teaching them to others. There is a glorious future for those who endure the trials of the present and "despise not the day of small things." In this latter day work and gathering dispensation, colonization is as necessary as conversion.—*Deseret News.*

Life is a web, time is a shuttle, man is a weaver. The principle of human action is the thread in the web of life. That which goes into the web will invariably come out with the web, and nothing, it cannot be contested, will come out with the web which has not been put in.

One of the meanest beings on earth is a toady. The bluntest, roughest creature that independence ever made is preferable to a fawning, cringing toady, who, for the sake of money or favor, praises what he detests, flatters without admiring, chanches his opinions at a nod, and would lick the dust from the shoes of one in power could he further his own ends thereby.

The one great practical truth that ought to be driven over and over again into his own mind by every young man is that he should not care a button for his likes and dislikes, but should do what ought to be done, in spite of any disagreeableness. The lesson of self-denial is far beyond any other in importance. It must be repeated again and again.

POETRY.

BE CHEERFUL.

There's no necessity for sadness
While all life is gay;
There's no excuse for moody madness;
Drive dispair away.

The flowers of the fields appear
All beautiful and bright,
E'en while they 're bathed in glist'ning tear,
Shed o'er them by the night.

The birds wake up at early morn,
As 'twere to live the day,
Not moping as they were forlorn,
But lively keep, and gay.

And buds upon the hedges peep,
As soon as e'er they can,
Waked from dull, drowsy winter's sleep,
By spring, to heed its plan

Of bringing back to life again
The seemingly deceased.
Why can't it be the same with men
Who've sunken down displeased?

Why not as well as feel so dull
Be happy, cheerful, free,
Letting these sweet sensations lull
Undue anxiety?

Who doubts 'tis well that we be wise;
And is not wisdom this:
That hurtful things we should despise,
And choose those giving bliss.

There's no necessity for sadness
While all life is gay;
There's no excuse for moody madness;
Drive dispair away.

JOHN BATT.

DIED.

MCKILLOP.—At Inkerman, near Paisley, Feb. 14th, Isabella McKillop, wife of George Lochhead aged 65 years. Deceased was a firm adherent of the Gospel of Christ.—Utah papers please copy.

ODEY.—In Salt Lake City, Utah, March 6, 1879, of old age, Ann Odey, aged 80 years.—"News."

COOPER.—At West Jordan, Utah, paralysis, Sarah Cooper, wife of Wm. Cooper, age 56 years.—"News."

HOLDEN.—In the 9th Ward, Salt Lake City, Utah, March, 8., 1879, of general debility of two years duration, Michael Holden, born in South Croxton, England, March, 21., 1834.—"News."

HODGETTS.—Accidentially killed at Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 19th, by the caving in of a gravel bank, William Benjamin Hodgetts, aged 21 years: son of the late William Benjamin Hodgetts of Worcester, England, and Elizabeth Hodgetts Braiser of the 4th Ward of this city.—"News."

BELL.—At the residence of Mr. Wm. Robertson, in Spanish Fork, Utah, on Sunday, Feb. 16., 1879, Mary, wife of the late Nathaniel Bell. Deceased was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, Oct. 4., 1803. and emigrated to Utah in 1854; she died, as she had lived, in full faith of the Gospel.—"Territorial (Utah) Enquirer."

HENNEFER.—Suddenly at Hennefer, Summit County, Feb. 21, 1879, Margaret Hennefer, wife of Lehi Hennefer. and daughter of Wm. and Mary Ann Bond. aged 31 years, and 7 months. Deceased was born at Cheetham Hill, near Manchester, Lancashire, England. She was a faithful Latter-day Saint, and leaves a husband and 6 small children and a large circle of friends to mourn her loss.—"News."

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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD, O YE NATIONS, AND DECLARE IT IN THE ISLES AFAR OFF, AND SAY, HE THAT SCATTERETH ISRAEL WILL GATHER HIM, AND KEEP HIM, AS A SHEPHERD DOTH HIS FLOCK."—*Jeremiah* xxxi, 10.

No. 16, Vol. XLI. Monday, April 21, 1879. Price One Penny.

EPISTLE OF ELDER WILFORD WOODRUFF,

ONE OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

To the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and to all the world, Greeting:

I feel desirous to once more, while in the flesh, by the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ, bear my testimony unto you, as the Church and kingdom of God, established on the earth by the God of heaven in this last dispensation and fullness of times. I also wish to bear my testimony to all nations under heaven, emperors, kings, presidents, statesmen, governors, judges, all rulers, and the ruled who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. My testimony is this unto all men and nations, that you live in the day and hour of the judgments of God Almighty. You live in the day and generation when the God of Israel has set his hand to perform his work, his strange work in the latter days. You live in the age in which God will bring to pass the fulfillment of that word of prophecy and prediction which has been spoken by all the prophets since the world began, which stands recorded in the sacred books of divine truth, and the fulfillment of these revelations will involve the destiny of the whole world, Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, high and low, saint and sinner, Babylon and Zion. Therefore prepare yourselves, O ye inhabitants of the earth, for the hour of God's judgment is at the door. As it was in the days of Noah and of Lot, so shall it be in the day of the coming of the Son of Man.

I address myself just to the Saints of God, who have entered into covenant with the Lord, and been ordained unto the holy priesthood: If you are living your religion, and enjoy the spirit of inspiration, which is your duty, you know as God lives that Joseph Smith was a prophet of God, that he received the administration of angels, that he brought forth the Book of Mormon, and translated it by the power of God. You know he received the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, and the holy priesthood and apostleship, and the keys thereof, and that he organized the Church of Christ, "the only true and living Church upon the face of the whole earth," with its gifts and graces, with which the Lord is "well pleased."

You do know Joseph Smith, the prophet, left his testimony upon the earth, and sealed that testimony with his own life and blood, and that testament is in force "upon all the world," and that testament is filled with the revelation of God, that stand upon its pages like flames of living fire, ready to be fulfilled upon all the inhabitants of the earth. In this testament the Lord has commanded his servants to go to all the world and preach this Gospel of the kingdom to every creature, as far as doors are open. He also commanded His servants to visit New York, Albany, Boston, and all the notable cities and villages of the world, reproving them of their ungodly deeds, and warning them of the desolation and utter abolishment which await them, if they reject the testimony of the servants of God. "For with you, saith the Lord Almighty, I will rend their kingdoms, for I will shake not only the earth, but the starry heavens shall tremble; you cannot see it now, but soon you shall see it and know that I am God." You Latter-day Saints, do you not know these things are true? You do, and so do I, for the Spirit of God bears record, and the record is truth, and truth abideth forever. Under the circumstances, what manner of men and women ought we to be? Are we prepared, as a people, for the great events which await us; which await both Zion and Babylon? Judge ye! What is our duty as Saints of the living God? It is our duty to humble ourselves before the Lord and call upon his name, until we are filled with the Holy Ghost and the spirit of inspiration, which is the light of Christ; pay our tithes and offerings, keep the commandments of God, and have faith in his word, remember and honor the ordinances we have observed, and the covenants and obligations we have entered into in the holy places and Temples of our God. We should unite ourselves together in a temporal as well as a spiritual point of view, as directed by the wise men of Israel. We should seek to build up the kingdom and Zion of our God, and not ourselves alone. When we do these things, we are prepared as a people to let our prayers ascend into the ears of the Lord of Sabbaoth, and they will be heard and answered upon our heads. Again, this testament which Joseph Smith left, contains a revelation and commandment from God, out of heaven, concerning the patriarchal order of marriage. The Lord has commanded us to have our wives and children sealed to us, for time and eternity, that we may have them with us in our family organizations in the resurrection, to dwell with us forever in the eternal worlds, that we may have an increase of posterity forever in connection with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the ancient patriarchs. And God, our heavenly Father, knowing that this was the only law ordained by the Gods of eternity that would exalt immortal beings to kingdoms, thrones, principalities, powers and dominions, and heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ to a fullness of celestial glory, I say, the God of Israel knowing these things, commanded Joseph Smith, the prophet, and the Latter-day Saints, to obey this law, "or you shall be damned," saith the Lord. Now, after having obeyed the law for many years, the Congress of the United States, and the supreme judges of the nation, stand forth and say, "You shall be damned if you do obey it." Now Latter-day Saints, what are we going to do under the circumstances? God says, "We shall be damned if we do not obey the law." Congress says, "We shall be damned if we do." It places us precisely in the some position that it did the Hebrews in the fiery furnace, and Daniel in the den of lions. The enemies of Daniel counseled together, and said, "We cannot find any occasion against Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." Our enemies have pursued the same course, and the law-makers and judges of the nation have joined them, and made it a law of offence to obey one of the laws of our God. Now who shall we obey? God or man? My voice is that we will obey God. We have but a short time to live here; we have a long eternity to live on the other side of the vail. Thus situated, the matter is taken entirely out of our hands, the

warfare is now between God and the nation. I am an American citizen, born and raised in the State of Connecticut. I wish to ask the lawmakers and judges of the government a few questions: By what power was Columbus inspired and moved upon to plead before courts of Europe to assist him to fit out a fleet, to cross the ocean and find a western continent? By what power was he protected until he accomplished this? By what power were our forefathers inspired to cross the ocean to inhabit this land? And when they had inhabited the land, and the yoke of bondage laid upon their necks by the mother country became too grievous to be borne, they rose up as a nation and declared their independence, and passed through an eight years' war at the expense of much blood and treasure, and finally obtained their liberty, and established a free and independent government, which was acknowledged by the nations of the earth? By what power was the Constitution of the United States inspired, framed and adopted, as the supreme law of the land, to be handed down as a rich legacy to posterity from generation to generation? All these blessings have been obtained by the inspiration of Almighty God and the will of heaven. This glorious instrument guarantees unto all its citizens the rights of religion, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The right of the enjoyment of religion of any citizen of this Republic, has never been questioned by any Congress or judges of the law, until of late, when both the Congress of the United States and the supreme judges of the law sought, by their action, to deprive a hundred and fifty thousand of her citizens of the right to enjoy their religion which the Constitution guarantees unto them. Will not the same God who has given this nation a free government and an inspired Constitution of equal rights to all men who inhabit its broad domain, hold the rulers and judges of the law responsible for the use they make of the power in their hands? HE WILL. The Congress of 1862, and the supreme judges of 1879, in their acts and decisions, have taken a dangerous and fearful step; their acts will sap the very foundation of our government, and it will be rent asunder, and the God of heaven will hold them responsible for these things, for "what men sow they will reap, and the measure they mete unto others will be meted unto them," saith the Lord. The Constitution once broken by the rulers of the land, there will be no stopping place until the nation is broken in pieces, and no power beneath the heavens can save this nation from the consequence thereof; and all rulers of this nation, as well as other nations, will have to give an account unto the Judge of all the earth for the use they make of the power put into their hands. Virtue exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people. The question was asked the Hebrews, "What God is there that is able to deliver you out of the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar?" A righteous answer of faith was given, "That we do not know as our God will deliver us out of your hands, but one thing we know, that we will not bow down and worship the golden image which thou hast set up." So say I. As an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, I will not desert my wives and my children and disobey the commandments of God, for the sake of accomodating the public clamor of a nation steeped in sin and ripened for the damnation of hell! I would rather go to prison and to death. If I would not, I would never be fit to associate with the prophets and patriarchs of old, and I could not but despise in my heart any man who professed to be a Latter-day Saint who would do otherwise. Why should we fear man who only has power to kill the body, more than him who has power to cast both soul and body into hell? Christ says, "When men speak all manner of evil against you, and persecute you for righteousness sake, rejoice and be exceeding glad, for so persecuted they the prophets and apostles who were before you." I would say to all Israel, treat your wives and children kindly, and keep the commandments of God and trust in him, and he will fight your battles. And I will say, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, that "Mormonism" will live and prosper, Zion will flourish,

and the kingdom of God will stand in power and glory and dominion as Daniel saw it, when this nation is broken to pieces as a potter's vessel and laid in the dust, and brought to judgment, or God never spoke by my mouth. Therefore I say to all the Saints throughout the world, Be faithful and true to your God and to your religion, to your families and to yourselves. Jesus of Nazareth has suffered death on the cross for the redemption of the world, and his apostles followed his example for the word of the Lord and testimony of Jesus Christ, and Joseph Smith proved to God, angels and men, that he would and did abide in his covenants unto death, and none of us shall be called to do anything more. We certainly, any of us, would be ashamed to deny the faith to accomodate our enemies, then meet the prophets and apostles in the spirit world. May God forbid that this should be the case with any of the blood of Ephraim.

I wish in this testimony to say that the time is not far distant when the rich men among the Jews may be called upon to use their abundant wealth to gather the dispersed of Judah, and purchase the ancient dwelling places of their fathers in and about Jerusalem, and rebuild the holy city and temple. For the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, and the Lord has decreed that the Jews should be gathered from all the Gentile nations where they have been driven, into their own land, in fulfillment of the words of Moses their law-giver. And this is the will of your great Eloheim, O house of Judah, and whenever you shall be called upon to perform this work, the God of Israel will help you. You have a great future and destiny before you and you cannot avoid fulfilling it; you are the royal chosen seed, and the God of your father's house has kept you distinct as a nation, for eighteen hundred years, under all the oppression of the whole Gentile world. You may not wait until you believe on Jesus of Nazareth, but when you meet with Shiloh, your king, you will know him, your destiny is marked out, you cannot avoid it. It is true that after you return and gather your nation home, and rebuild your city and temple, that the Gentiles may gather together their armies to go against you to battle, for to take a prey and to take a spoil, which they will do, for the words of your prophets must be fulfilled; but when this affliction comes, the living God, that led Moses through the wilderness, will deliver you, and your Shiloh will come and stand in your midst, and will fight your battles, and you will know him; and the afflictions of the Jews will be at an end; while the destruction of the Gentiles will be so great that it will take the whole house of Israel who are gathered about Jerusalem, seven months to bury the dead of their enemies, and the weapons of war will last them seven years for fuel, so that they need not go to any forest for wood. These are tremendous sayings—who can bear them? Nevertheless they are true and will be fulfilled, according to the sayings of Ezekiel, Zechariah and other prophets. Though the heavens and the earth pass away, not one jot or tittle will fall unfulfilled.

I would say to the Lamanites, if I could speak to them understandingly, that you are also a branch of the house of Israel, and chiefly of the house of Joseph, and your forefathers have fallen through the same examples of unbelief and sins, as have the Jews, and you, as their posterity, have wandered in sin and darkness for many generations, and you, like the Jews, have been driven and trampled under the feet of the Gentiles, and put to death through your wars with each other and with the white men, until you are almost destroyed. But there is still a redemption and salvation for a remnant of you in the latter-days. It is time for you to cease shedding each other's blood, or making war upon your fellow-man. Cease to destroy one another, learn to cultivate the earth and raise your food therefrom; call upon the Great Spirit to protect you and deliver you from bondage and darkness, and the Great Spirit will hear you and deliver you, and a remnant of you will again become a delightsome people as your forefathers were when they kept the commandments of God.

Could I speak to the Ten Tribes of

Israel, in the north country, I would say call upon the God of your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that your prophets may come in remembrance before God, that they may hear his voice and no longer stay themselves, but smite the rocks that the mountains of ice may flow down at their presence. "An highway shall be cast up in the midst of the great deep;" their enemies shall become a prey unto them. Bring forth your records and rich treasures unto the children of Ephraim, the servants of the Lord in the land of Zion, and the boundaries of the everlasting hills shall tremble at your presence, and you shall fall down and be crowned with glory, even in Zion, by the hands of the servants of God, even the children of Ephraim, and you shall be filled with songs of everlasting joy; behold this is the "blessing of the everlasting God upon the tribes of Israel, and the richer blessing upon the head of Ephraim and his fellows."

These events referred to are but a very limited portion of the revelations of God which are about to be fulfilled upon the heads of this generation. I wish to warn all nations of the judgments of God which are at their doors. Thrones will be cast down, nations will be overturned, anarchy will reign, all legal barriers will be broken down, and the laws will be trampled in the dust. You are about to be visited with war, the sword, famine, pestilence, plague, earthquakes, whirlwinds, tempests, and with the flame of devouring fire, by fire and with the sword will God plead with all flesh, and the slain of the Lord will be many. The anger of the Lord is kindled and his sword is bathed in heaven, and is about to fall upon Idumea, or the world. And who is able to abide these things? And who will stand when he appeareth? The fig trees are leafing, and the signs of all heaven and earth indicate the coming of the Son of Man. The seals are about to be opened; the plagues to be poured forth. Your rivers and seas will be turned to blood and to gall. And the inhabitants of the earth will die of plagues. And the unbelief of great Babylon, with the whole Christian world, will not make the truths of God without effect. Let the world look, for example, at the ancient cities of the nations. Where is Thebes, Tyre, Sidon, Nineveh, and Babylon the Great, which were built to defy all time, and all power but God himself? They were laid in the dust and their inhabitants destroyed, when they were ripened in iniquity, and this too, in fulfillment of the word of God unto them through the voices of righteous men, who spake as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. In like manner was Jerusalem destroyed and the Jews scattered among the Gentiles in fulfillment of the words of Moses and Jesus Christ. Will the Lord any more spare the cities of the Gentiles and great Babylon, than the ancient cities and the cities of the Jews. No, verily no. The question may be asked why these judgments are coming upon the world in the last days? I answer because of the wickedness of the inhabitants thereof. The very proclamation of the angel of God when he delivered the fullness of the Gospel as revealed in the Revelations of St. John was, "Crying with a loud voice, fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come." And when that proclamation was made to Joseph Smith the Prophet, it was, half a century ago, "Light has come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." The Lord has raised up prophets and apostles who have cried aloud to this generation, with the proclamation of the Gospel for half a century, and warned them of the judgments which were to come, and the inhabitants of the earth have rejected this testimony, and shed the blood of the Lord's anointed, and persecuted the Saints of God, and the consequence is this, "Darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people," and the Lord is withholding his spirit from the inhabitants of the earth, and the devil is ruling over his own kingdom, and wickedness and abominations of every kind have increased a hundred fold within the last few years, until the whole earth is filled with murders, whoredoms, blasphemies, and every crime in the black catalogue that was manifest in the antideluvian world, or Sodom and Gomorrah, until the whole earth groans under its abominations,

and the heavens weep, and all eternity is pained, and the angels are waiting the great command to go forth and reap down the earth. This testimony I bear to all nations under heaven, and I know it is true by the inspiration of Almighty God, and the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States bears me out in the opinion that the constitution gives me the privilege of enjoying my belief, and faith and opinion in religion, *if I do not act*. Therefore the acts and execution of all these tremendous events I leave for the God of heaven to execute, which he most assuredly will. What I have spoken I have spoken, and I excuse not myself, and, "though the heavens and the earth pass away, my words will not pass away, but will all be fulfilled," saith the Lord of Hosts. I subscribe myself an Apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

WILFORD WOODRUFF.

MISSIONARY LABOR ABROAD.

BY ELDER JOSEPH R. TAYLOR.

The general testimony of the elders returning from their various fields of labor is, that the people do not want, and will not receive the Gospel; and many of them feel as if the labor of one, two, or more years was comparatively lost. In reading the history of the labors of the apostles and elders forty years ago, in the United States, England, and elsewhere, they find that the people received their testimony by hundreds and by thousands. In many instances they were prepared by visions and by dreams to believe and accept the Gospel almost as soon as they heard it. The writer can remember, thirty years ago, the readiness of the people to listen and obey. In every town, and nearly every village he visited, *some* would believe the truth and ask to be baptized, and branches were organized on every hand. But the scene is changed. The elders of to-day feel the full force of the saying of the ancient prophet, "'Tis like the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done."

I sometimes picture them to myself, foot-sore and weary from travel and labor, sitting at night in the *rented* house of the faithful, but very poor Latter-day Saint, who has to struggle hard for the bare necessaries of life, the Elder feeling perhaps downcast and in need of comfort himself, has to draw upon his already depressed spirit for words of encouragement, comfort and blessing to these poor but honest Saints who are praying constantly for deliverance, but realize they must wait until a helping hand is reached out to them. How these elders wish they had the money to help them, but they have it not, and can only join in their prayers to God for their deliverance. The morrow comes, the Lord is asked to lead his servant to those who will listen to his testimony, for he fully realizes the near approach of calamities, intensified a hundred-fold to those his eye-witnesses to-day, and he feels in his bones a burning desire that the people would heed his warning, "Prepare to flee from the wrath to come." Night comes; he has walked, talked, preached, prayed and hoped, but the same stoical indifference meets him, and he mourns.

There is another side to the picture. He has heard that there are persons investigating the truth, but they live many miles away. No matter, they must be reached. Feet are not sore now, limbs are not weary; the distance is easily travelled, the house is reached. Half doubting, half believing; he knocks and is answered by the enquirer after truth. His keen perceptions penetrate their spirit; it is an Israelite he sees, both by blood and faith. He is welcomed as only these can welcome. They already believe, and only wait to hear a very little more and then baptism is administered, the Holy Ghost descends, the Elder returns thanks to God, and the new Saint

thanks God and elder both.

Elders abroad; is the picture overdrawn?

One thing you should bear in mind; your calling is to *preach* the Gospel and, in the language of our late President B. Young, "the result of your labors is with the Lord and is not your business." "This Gospel must be preached in all the world for a witness and then the end shall come." The same testimony that will justify the believer will condemn the unbeliever, and though not one soul should receive your testimony you will be equally justified if you have performed your duty faithfully. The ancient, as well as modern apostles were instructed to shake off the dust from their feet and also to wash their feet in testimony against that people who utterly rejected them and their message. Therefore, brethren, take courage, for the Elder who performs a faithful mission abroad will feel justified within himself, the priesthood will justify him as will also the angels and our Father, and he will in no wise loose his reward.

VARIETIES.

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The best recipe for going through life in a commendable way is to feel that everybody, no matter how rich or how poor, needs all the kindness he can get from others in the world.

Never condemn your neighbor unheard, however many the accusations preferred against him; every story has two ways of being told, and justice requires that you should hear the defence as well as the accusation, and remember that the malignity of enemies may place you in a similar situation.

Self-Control.—Many of the nervous complaints that afflict people are greatly aggravated by giving way to irritability of temper. Control your temper if you desire health of body and peace of mind. The subjection of naturally strong passions to a still stronger will is a distinctive mark of greatness.

Well-Ordered Households.—Where there is disorder there is no tranquility, no excellence, no advancement, no happiness. Order in families is essential to their peace, elevation, and progress. In our households everything should be done at the best time, as well as in the best manner. There should be rules to direct and govern, from which there should be no deviation, unless necessity compel. Disorderly habits, a constant want of arrangement, will entail nothing but loss and misery; and, as the children grow up, these habits will be rendered fixed and permanent, so that they will become men and women, fathers and mothers, without any love of rule and order.

Make Friends.—Life is very critical. Any word may be our last. Any farewell, even amid glee and merriment, may be for ever. If this truth were but burned into our consciousness, and if it ruled as a deep conviction and real power in our lives, would it not give a new meaning to all our human relationships? Would it not make us far more tender than we sometimes are? Would it not oftentimes put a rein upon our rash and impetuous speech? Would we carry in our hearts the miserable suspicious and jealousies that now so often embitter the fountains of our loves? Would we be so impatient of the faults of others? Would we allow trival misunderstandings to build up strong walls between us and those who ought to stand very close to us? Would we keep alive petty quarrels, year after year, which a manly word any day would compose? Would we pass neighbors or old friends on the street without recognition, because of some real or fancied slight, some wounding of pride, or some ancient grudge? Or would we be so chary of our kind words, our commendations, our sympathy, our comfort when weary hearts all about us are breaking for just uch expressions of interest or appreciation as we have it in our power to give?

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1879.

SECRET COMBINATIONS.

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In the issue of the STAR preceding this, we treated upon war, under the caption of "The Sword." We showed that if it be reasonable to anticipate the introduction of an infinitely better order of society than has existed under exclusively human rule, it is no less in harmony with reason to expect the utter extinguishment of all systems antagonistic to that more improved state. The universal kingdom of God cannot be co-existent with the kingdoms of this world. War is set forth as a demolisher of obstacles in the way of the introduction of a peaceful reign. This warlike spirit will not be confined to nationalities. It will assume forms that will be much more pregnant with terror to the peacefully disposed than that, causing not only the downfall of weaker nations by victory being perched upon the banners of their opponents, but will make a crumbling mass of the institutions of the proudest and most powerful governments under the sun. We refer to secret combinations and societies that are silently and surely undermining the foundations of the governments of the earth. To warn the people in the nations of those destructive and murderous associations, is a portion of the message of the servants of God in this dispensation. In a revelation given through Joseph, the Seer, at Kirtland, Ohio, Feb. 9th, 1831, the following passage occurs: "And behold, it shall come to pass that my servants shall be sent forth to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south; and even now, let him that goeth to the east, teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth, and of *secret combinations*."

At the time this revelation was given, secret societies of a murderous and communistic description were comparatively unknown in civilized nations, but since then they have increased most alarmingly on both hemispheres. The character of those combinations is well known by their outcroppings, as observable in the sanguinary, murderous history of the French commune; the destructive course of a similar element in the United States, scarce two years since, during the great railroad strikes; the Nihilistic assassinations of government officials in Russia; the socialistic attempts at murder in Germany, and the various late attempts against monarchy, in the efforts to take the lives of several of the crowned heads of Europe. These show the objects to be the

possession of gain and power, the necessity of shedding blood to obtain them being considered no obstacle. This internal strife in the bodies politic is even more threatening to national existence than conflicts ensuing from kingdom rising against kingdom. A gentleman of prominence who recently gave the subject of these combinations some investigatory attention, was alarmed at the discovery that, to use his own phrase, they "fairly honeycombed the nations of Europe."

The governments in which the socialistic element assumes the more dangerous aspect—Germany and Russia, seek to crush it out of existence by repressory measures, but the effect of these efforts will be the rapid increase of the institutions they are desirous of killing. A nation is an individualism. When the body of a man is attacked with a violent eruptive disease, the only safety lies in adopting means to throw the poisonous matter upon the surface of the skin. If, on the other hand, it be kept in the system, it will spread through every artery, attack and corrupt the vitals, and mortification, dissolution and death are the inevitable results. So it is with the violent socialistic element in the nations; the poison may be smothered and kept from the surface by repressive legislation, but it is still in the body politic, vitiating its channels, knawing at the national vitals, and the doom of that government is merely a question of time. And what a doom, to be torn in fragmentary shreds by murderous mobs, united only in their aim to break down every restrictive barrier that restrains them in the gratification of their lawless desires.

Did the nations but know of the impending ruin that is at their doors, surely they would tremble, with fearful looking forward, for even now the sword of justice hangs over them by a slender thread, liable soon to snap and let the shining blade descend upon their devoted heads.

The fate of the nations of the world is plainly depicted in that most clear and precious record, the Book of Mormon. The existence of the numerous secret orders and societies of the present day are a standing proof of the divine authenticity of that book. They fulfill some of its most emphatic prophecies. For the consideration of those who are sceptical upon this point we refer to page 531, on which is recorded the statements of the Prophet Moroni upon this subject. After telling that these secret combinations had proved the destruction of two distinct peoples who inhabited the Continent of America in ancient times, the Jaredites and Nephites, he says: "And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed." Also, speaking prophetically, addressing the Gentiles of this day, he says: "Wherefore the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you, that you shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which *shall be among* you." He thus faithfully describes the character of such societies: "For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up, seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries, and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies."

With what pointed plainness did Moroni depict the present condition of some of the Gentile nations. Although his inspired predictions were penned nearly fourteen hundred years ago, his statements are as clear an exposition of existing

difficulties as if written in the present hour. And how necessary the warning which the Lord, through Joseph Smith, the great latter-day prophet, commanded his servants to sound in the ears of all who were converted to the true Gospel of Christ in the eastern countries—"to flee to the west, and this in consequence of that which is coming upon the earth, and of secret combinations."

One of the latest of the many murderous deeds of these secret agencies was perpetrated at St. Petersburg, Russia, on the 14th of April, in the form of an attempted assassination of the Emperor Alexander. A leading paper, commenting upon this outrage, says: "The hallucination of Nihilists and Socialists in supposing that by homicidal crime they can accelerate human progress must be accounted—gross and insane as it is—one of the most serious political dangers of the times." This is true, and it is beyond the power of human agency to avert the danger. It portends the utter overthrow of every nation in which this socialistic element has gained a foothold. The prophecies foretelling the arising of this combination are receiving an unqualified and literal fulfillment, and we look with equal confidence for the effects of its existence—the utter overthrow and destruction of every country where it appears.

Hear it, O ye nations, and know that your doom is nigh at hand, for already the chill hand of dissolution is laid upon your institutions. Soon will your pride be laid low in the dust. Not only will there be wars, "nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom," but the peoples of the earth will be torn and rent asunder by internal disturbances, for, as declared in the Book of Mormon, "The Lord will send a great division among the people." It will come to pass that the people of Zion will be the only people who will not be at war one with another. Zion will be the refuge to which the peace-loving in all countries will turn their eyes and direct their steps, for the time will come when "every man who will not take up his sword against his neighbor must needs flee to Zion for safety."

DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST COMPANY OF THE SEASON.

The first installment of this season's emigration left Liverpool, on the Guion S.S. *Wyoming*, on Saturday, April 19th, for the land of Zion. Early on the afternoon of that day, a meeting of the elders on board was called by President Budge, and held in one of the saloons of the vessel. Besides the missionaries released to return home with the company, there were present, President Budge and Elders John Nicholson, Francis Cope, James L. Bunting, George H. Taylor and Henry Rolapp.

The proceedings were opened with prayer, the President made a few preliminary observations, and an organization of the company was effected by the election of the following officers, each nomination being sustained by a unanimous vote: For President, Charles W. Nibley; First and Second Counselors, Warren B. Smith and Royal B. Young; Chaplain, Erastus W. McIntire; Clerk, Walter J. Beatie.

President Budge gave some very timely and appropriate instructions, profitable to be acted upon by the brethren on the homeward journey, and expressed his good feelings toward the elders. He was followed briefly, in remarks, by

Elders Nicholson and Nibley. A good spirit, a brotherly and affectionate feeling, pervaded the little assemblage, which was dismissed by prayer from Elder Warren B. Smith.

Besides the officers, already named, the following returning elders are with the company: W. S. Burton, Daniel Jacobs, M. B. Wheelwright, John E. Metcalf, John R. Twelves, Joseph O. Young, Willard E. Weihe, W. D. Major. The company, besides the elders, numbers 157 persons; 132 of whom are English; 16 Welsh and 9 Scotch, making a total, including returning missionaries, of 170 souls.

Mr. Guion's agent, Mr. Ramsden, was indefatigable in his efforts to make all necessary arrangements for the comfort of the Saints, and in this he was highly successful. The portion of the vessel assigned to the company was fitted up in a manner highly commendable to his ability to render the situation as pleasant as possible, under the circumstances, for the people, while crossing the ocean in the good ship *Wyoming*, which is a very fine vessel. All the preliminaries preparatory to the company setting sail were arranged agreeably without obstacle.

The visitors to the vessel bid adieu to their friends who were about leaving for the home of the Saints, and returned to the landing stage, upon the tender, and the ship steamed out of the Mersey within a couple of hours afterwards.

The Saints everywhere will unite with us in prayers to the God of Heaven that this detachment of his people may be preserved upon the sea and land, on their journey to the present gathering place of the Church of Christ.

DESTRUCTIVE HAILSTORM.

On the 13th of March there was an extraordinary hailstorm, in the Tipperah District, Eastern Bengal. The following is an extract from the magistrate's official report:

"Some hailstones fell as large as cricket balls. The storm lasted only about fifteen minutes, and its track was apparently not more than 300 yards wide. Large trees were uprooted; bamboo clumps swept down like grass, and houses levelled with the ground. Twenty-nine persons were killed and 114 wounded, mostly by the falling trees and houses. A considerable number of cattle were killed, and among the victims was a tiger."

One of the offices of the MILLENNIAL STAR is to direct the attention of the people to the signs of the times, and warn this generation of approaching judgments. The damage done by a local storm of that character, as described above, enables a person to form some idea of the terrible effects that a very extensive and infinitely heavier downfall of that kind would produce. A fearful hailstorm will be among the judgments of these days, when the fury and indignation of an offended God will be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, and that shortly. The hour of God's judgment spoken of in the Revelations of St. John, has about come. We give one of a number of passages relating to this subject (Rev. xvi, 21), "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

A talent is a Jewish weight, containing 3,000 shekels; which, computing the shekel at 3 shillings sterling, amounts to 450 pounds sterling for a silver talent. Imagine for a moment the destruction and desolation that would result from a shower of hail of such enormous size and weight.

Modern revelation speaks of the same impending judgment (Book of Doc. & Cov., Am. Ed., page 133). The Lord, speaking through Joseph Smith, the great prophet, raised up to usher in the latter-day dispensation, said, in Sept. 1830: "And there shall be weeping and wailing among the hosts of men; and there shall be a great hailstorm sent forth to destroy the crops of the earth. And it shall come to pass, because of the wickedness of the world, that I will take vengeance upon the wicked, for they will not repent; for the cup of mine indignation is full; for behold my blood shall not cleanse them if they hear me not."

HOMEWARD BOUND.—It is not our custom to make special mention of the labors of any of the returning missionaries. The reason for this must be obvious—it is generally not advisable to make distinctions that might be deemed invidious. This course is all the more necessary in view of the fact that, as a rule, the elders who come on missions to foreign lands labor with energy and devotion in that important capacity.

We believe, however, that departures from our usual course in this respect are occasionally admissable. Influenced by this view we take pleasure in referring to the labors of Elder Charles W. Nibley, who is among the elders returning with the company that sailed from this port on Saturday. His field of operations, during the two years of his sojourn in this country, has differed from that of the elders ordinarily. He has, during the whole of that time, been connected with the business department of this office. Besides his labors in that capacity, he has been actively engaged, as opportunity presented, in preaching and otherwise spreading the principles of the Gospel. He also presided, during the greater part of the time, over the Liverpool Branch of the Church. We have pleasure in stating that in every sphere in which he acted, he manifested a zeal, intelligence and devotion to the work of God that were most commendable. Our acquaintance, as well as that of the rest of his associates in the Office, with him, has been of the most pleasant character, and he carries with him our and their good feelings and wishes, combined with similar sentiments on the part of all among whom his lot has been cast in this country.

The experience of Elder Nibley in shipping, railroad and other business, with the details of which he is familiar, amply qualifies him to fill his appointment to preside over the company that has left for the land of Zion. The Saints will, doubtless, find him to be of great use to them in that position, in which he will be ably supported by his counselors, Elders W. B. Smith and R. B. Young, and the other brethren who are returning home after a faithful ministry abroad.

BOOK OF MORMON.—Elder Orson Pratt, having finished the important labor of getting out electro plates for a new edition of the Book of Mormon, with foot note references, prepared by himself, arrived in Liverpool, from London, on Friday, April 18th. We are pleased to be able to state that Brother Pratt

is in excellent health and Spirits. Last evening he delivered a discourse of most intense interest, in the Saints' meeting room, dwelling specially upon the prophetic symbolism of the great Pyramid in Upper Egypt.

Elder Joseph Bull, who has been assisting Elder Pratt in getting out the plates for the Book of Mormon, arrived here to-day, having called at Birmingham on the way from London.

RELEASES.—The following Elders are released to return home with the second emigration company, which will leave Liverpool on May 24th:

Elder A. F. Macdonald, from being President of the Scottish Conference.

Elder Joseph E. Cowley, from being President of the Manchester Conference.

Elder Joseph Bull, jun., from being President of the Sheffield Conference.

Elder Aaron J. Macdonald, from being Traveling Elder in the Scottish Conference.

Elder W. J. B. Carter, from being Traveling Elder in the Birmingham Conference.

Elder Jacob J. Scharrer, from being Traveling Elder in the Swiss and German Mission.

Elder John F. Miller, on account of ill health, from being Traveling Elder in the Nottingham Conference.

Also, to return with the company that sailed April 19th, Elder Willard Weihe, from the Swiss and German Mission.

APPOINTMENTS.—Elder Hugh Findlay is appointed to preside over the Glasgow Conference.

Elder John Rider is appointed to succeed Elder Joseph E. Cowley in the Presidency of the Manchester Conference.

Elder Andrew Watson is appointed to preside over the Dundee Conference.

MISSIONARIES.—At a Conference of the St. George (Washington County, Utah,) Stake of Zion, held March 14th, 15th and 16th, the following elders were called to come on missions to Europe:

Wm. Barnes, John M. Moody, jun., Erastus B. Snow and Moroni Snow, all of St. George. Charles Westover, jun., of Leeds. James Knell, of Pinto.

NOTES.

TOWN DESTROYED.—On the 16th of March the town of Miragsone, in Hayti, was destroyed by fire. Only two houses escaped the conflagration, and between 5,000 and 6,000 people were made homeless.

FOREIGN POLICY.—Recently Mr. John Bright, the noted English Statesman, writing to a gentleman on the state of English trade, said: "It is greatly to be lamented that all the powers of Government in this country seem taken up with what is termed foreign policy—with wars or rumors of wars, and with negotiations in connection with wars past or to come, whilst no real attention is given to questions affecting our foreign trade and the employment of our people."

ANOTHER MARINE DISASTER.—Intelligence from the West Indies states that the Liverpool steamer "Bolivia" collided with the Haytian war vessel, St. Michel, forty-five miles west of Port-au-Prince. The war ship was sunk and sixty of her men drowned. Instances of "destructions upon the waters," as prophesied by Joseph Smith, may be constantly expected in these days of calamity.

MORE PLAGUE.—News from Morocco is to the effect that sporadic typhus is making fearful havoc among the population of Casablanca, carrying them off wholesale. In